29th November, 1999 addressed to the Chief Justices of the High Courts, suggested that every Chief Metropolitan Magistrate or the Chief Judicial Magistrate of the area, in which a District jail falls, might hold his court once or twice in a month, depending upon the workload, in jail to take up the cases of those under-trial prisoners who are involved in petty offences.

Besides, on the basis of the recommendation made by the 11th Finance Commission, the setting up of 1150 FastTrack Courts in different parts of the country has so far been notified, of which 737 have started functioning.These Fast track Courts deal with long pending cases including the cases of under-trials.

Terrorist Activities in Konkan Coast

*357. SHRISATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item published in the 'Indian Express' dated 9th July, 2002, under the caption "Konkan coast: 600-km invitation to terror";

(b) if so. Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to address the various problems and bottlenecks mentioned in the news article regarding growing number of terrorist activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE INTHE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENIVIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. As per reports, a Lebanese ship, "Al Murtada" was found drifting off the Ratnagiri coast in Maharashtra on 3rd July, 2002. Two AK-47 rifles alongwith some ammunition were recovered from the ship. There was no crew on board. Investigations so far do not show any evidence that the ship had connections with any terrorist\militant organization or activity. The Government is conscious of the need to strengthen surveillance and patrolling arrangements along India's coastline in view of its vulnerability to illegal cross border activities. The coastal States and Union Territory Administrations have accordingly been advised to prepare a plan of action in this regard.